

Inquiries of the Ministry

the genial Secretary of State for External Affairs to establish the truth in certain matters. In view of the fact that yesterday I put a question to the minister with respect to the appointment of the commander of NATO forces in Europe, central sector, based on information contained in West German newspapers which I received, would the minister inform the house of the facts with respect to the reported appointment of General Albert Schnez as commander of NATO forces in Europe?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have some doubts as to whether the question is in order at this time. Perhaps the hon. member might want to place it on the order paper.

Mr. Herridge: With all respect, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that has caused concern among some Canadians and among some of our troops, and I think it is a matter which the Secretary of State for External Affairs should have an opportunity to correct.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, is it your wish that this question be answered? I think it is a marginal question, but in view of my hon. friend's persistence I would like to give him a reply. General Schnez has indicated that he is not a candidate for the important post of Commander, Allied Forces Central Europe, and the minister of defence in West Germany has denied that there is any justification for the charges contained in questions such as the one put by my hon. friend yesterday. He affirmed there is no foundation for these allegations.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer given by the minister I sincerely apologize for what now appears to be the unnecessary and unwarranted sarcasm in my question yesterday.

EXPORT OF FIREARMS TO U.S. FOR USE IN VIET NAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of National Defence. It concerns figures released by some newspapers indicating that \$200 million worth of firearms have been exported by Canada to the United States for use in Viet Nam. Considering that Canada's position is supposed to be neutral, is the minister able to tell the house whether there will be any undertaking by the federal government not to furnish firearms in the future?

[Mr. Herridge.]

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): There is no semblance of correctness in those figures.

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO MEET UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration?

In view of the fact that the number of unemployed in the Montreal area is now over 63,000, or equal to 6.3 per cent of the labour force, would the minister advise what projects he intends to propose to relieve the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking the minister to make a statement of a very general nature and it seems to me that this information should be given to the house on motions.

Mr. Ricard: Well, Mr. Speaker, this is an urgent question, because 63,000 people are without employment and it is important that they receive the necessary help from the government, and here I refer to the Chevrier-Martin plan of 1960.

[Later:]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the situation in the Quebec city area, does the department or the government intend to declare that region a designated area?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The application of the act governing designated areas does not concern my department, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO MEET UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In the light of releases indicating serious increases in the unemployment figures for October, and also in the light of reports at noon today that the average in British Columbia is 1.8 per cent above the